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Der entoptische Inhalt des Auges und das entoptische Sehfeld beim hallucinatorischen Sehen. Prof. J. HOPPE. Allg. Zeitschr. f. Psychiatrie, Jan. 1887.

The author rejects the theory of centrally initiated and centrifugally projected hallucinations or pseudo-hallucinations in the sense advocated by Kandinsky, and repudiates the term "reflex hallucination" on the ground that hallucination implies consciousness and reflex action excludes it. Hallucinations are defined as involuntary perceptions constructed from internal stimulus of the sensory nerves. This stimulation may be spontaneous by chemical, mechanical, vasomotor, trophic, or muscular action, may depend on the action of subcortical centres, on the entrance of already acquired concepts into the centre, or on the perceptive activity of consciousness. The material of hallucination is the excitation of the peripheral end of the nerves of sense. On falling asleep by day, Professor Hoppe has a sense of growing pressure between his fingers, as if holding a cigar, so vividly that he often looks to see if it is there, and with closed eyes often seems to see it. This spontaneously aroused sense of pressure is the material of hallucination. Sleeping with arm hanging down from a sofa, as the blood pressure increases and the hand seems to close more tightly, the sense of holding a rod becomes so vivid that only the eye can dissipate the hallucination. In the eye nothing in front of the retina can justly be received as material of hallucination. These, and pressure phosphenes, the images of retinal vessels, zigzag figures, the phenomena of contrast and physiological color sensations, are rather to be called illusions. But the pupil, if it be visible, blood corpuscles, the pulsation of the central artery, persistent after-images, and subjective phenomena represent material of hallucination. After-images the original of which has escaped us, and which we may later remember to have seen. But if we cannot do so, the act of perception is the same as if the real objects were before us. Although the entoptic material of the eye is transformed in an hallucinatory sense. Many forms emerge from the macula lutea in entoptic seeing with closed eye, suggesting that it is a seat of memory for images that reach it from without. The writer has repeatedly discovered, after special search in his environment, the originals of strange forms that first entered his consciousness as after-images, but had themselves passed unobserved. Memory consists largely of persistent after-images, and if it is a function of all nervous tissue, may be in part located in the retina, and thus the questionable hypothesis of excentric projection from the cortex be obviated. A long and minute description of the sequence of images, discs, cubes, sand, raindrops, carpet patterns waved by the pulse, clouds that become ships, fields of corn, trees, etc., as observed by the author in his eyes, pronounced normal by an expert ophthalmologist, follows. These are ascribed to circulatory and nutritive processes in the retina, which are also in this case material of hallucination.

Gegenbemerkung "eine neue Urtheilstäuschung im Gebiete des Gesichtssinnes" betreffend. SIGM. EXNER. Pflüger's Archiv, 1887, p. 776.

Three years ago Exner described the following striking phenomena: On an extended background of uniform brilliancy a small field of different hue but of about the same brightness is superposed. If the brightness of the background is changed by a flickering of the source of light, it is the small field, which is really constantly illum-